

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN FRED THOMAS**, on January 7, 2003 at 2:40 P.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Fred Thomas, Chairman (R)
Sen. Bob Keenan, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Jim Elliott (D)
Sen. Dan McGee (R)
Sen. Walter McNutt (R)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
Sen. Emily Stonington (D)
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)
Sen. Jon Tester (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Duane Grimes (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: None.
Fredella D. Haab, Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: Senate Joint Resolution 1,
1/6/2003

CHAIRMAN FRED THOMAS indicated they were going to go into executive action on Senate Joint Resolution 1.

Executive Action:

VICE CHAIRMAN BOB KEENAN SD 38,BIGFORK, opened the hearing on Senate Joint Resolution #1.

SEN. FRED THOMAS, SD 31, STEVENSVILLE, presented SJR#1 which is the Joint Rules of the Legislature. Our process will be to put these in the final form that we recommend to the full Senate and ask our body to send them to the House.

Members of the committee, SJR #1 on pages 4 and 5 the electronic recording of minutes is acknowledged in our rules because of the changes we are doing in the taxation room.

On pages 6, 7, and 8 we have name changes in the committee names. There is a change on page 9 that has to do with changing the language, requesting and the priority of drafting bills. This amendment primarily relates to the update of our rules on the December 5 deadline of "on requests of" bills.

On page 10 it does the same thing with the date of December 23 taken out. On page 11 we are taking out the Joint Resolution setting the salaries of legislative employees. They are on a pay plan and so it was taken out.

On page 13 it changes the dates of the fiscal note to allow ten days to prepare the estimate and taking the following language out.

Engrossing on page 15 changes the language dealing with engrossing on amendments. If it is amended or if it's not amended, the bill will go straight to printing. That is current practice and now our rule will adopt their practice in the engrossing and printing process.

On page 17 in 40-70 it deals with acknowledging that if we receive a House Bill here and send it to a committee and it is amended in Committee, stripped of that amendment on the floor and the bill now passes the floor in the same form that we received it from the House, it does not go back to the House for a second or third reading. It goes to the Governor. It is just acknowledgment that this body, even though it will show as amended in a committee and on the floor, if it leaves our body in the same form as it came from the House, it's done. That is practice so the rule reflects it. We can point to it when people call and ask why it got voted on.

On page 19 we have the governor's recommended amendments which must be considered first by the house in which the bill originated.

VICE CHAIRMAN KEENAN, asked if these were the Joint Rules we discussed in December?

SEN. THOMAS said the amendments were discussed in December and they are in this Resolution. He didn't know if they had any amendments to them at this time. He did know the Senate Rules has some amendments to adjust them.

VICE CHAIRMAN BOB KEENAN had it noted in the records that they had no public in attendance.

SEN. JON TESTER, SEN. DISTRICT 45, BIG SANDY, said he was approached this morning and it deals with what **SEN. JOHN COBB, SEN. DISTRICT 25, AUGUSTA**, brought up about the 3/4 vote.

SEN. THOMAS asked if he was questioning whether we want to leave the 3/4 vote to request a committee or lower than level?

SEN. TESTER said yes. He remarked that just in lieu of time and lack of preparation, it might just be best to address this on the floor.

VICE CHAIRMAN BOB KEENAN asked if there were any questions or comments for **SEN. THOMAS**?

SEN. THOMAS closed.

CHAIRMAN THOMAS said they were considering Senate Joint Resolution #1.

SEN. KEENAN, Motion/Vote: SEN. KEENAN moved that **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION #1 DO PASS. Motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 2:50 P.M.

SEN. FRED THOMAS, Chairman

FREDELLA D. HAAB, Secretary

FT/FH

EXHIBIT (rus02aad)